

Trial Court Edition

FCS Update

March 1999

***A newsletter on programs and services for families and children in the California Courts
Published by the Statewide Office of Family Court Services
Judicial Council of California***



Federal Access Grant Funds Helps Build Programs for Families

California's Access to Visitation Grant Program recently finished its first year of funding for fiscal year 1997-98. Over \$1 million dollars was distributed among fourteen recipients. Many of these proposals involved multiple court partnerships among counties and community agencies for the purpose of increasing non-custodial parents'

The Statewide Office has Returned Home! Our new address is:

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Statewide Office of Family Court
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access to their children. A total of thirty-eight counties statewide were represented in this program. Eight proposals received additional funding for year two, representing 25 counties.

California is one of the states to receive Access and Visitation Grant money. Funding to all states for Non-Custodial Access and Visitation Programs is provided by the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (Pub. L. 104-193, 110 Stat. 2258), Title III, Subtitle I—Enhancing Responsibility and Opportunity for Non-residential Parents, section 469B of the Social Security Act. State funds are based on the number of single-parent households. California has the largest number of single heads of household

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in the United States.

The California Department of Social Services (CDSS) applied for and received these grant moneys and convened an advisory group as instructed by Family Code Section 10101. The Advisory Group is comprised of representatives from the Judicial Council's Family Law Advisory Committee, the legislature, public agencies, the Administrative Office of the Courts, the Family Law Bar, and special interest groups. The Judicial Council of California was charged with the administration of this grant at the request of the Access to Visitation Advisory Group and CDSS. The Statewide Office of Family Court Services has had the primary responsibility of administrating and publicizing this Access to Visitation Grant Program.

The Advisory Group recommended three areas for funding and focus topics for the first year. Program areas include:

- (1). *Parent Education*
- (2). *Group Counseling*
- (3). *Supervised Visitation and Neutral Drop Off and Exchange Services*

A large portion of the first year funding was used for start-up and program development that will serve thousands of families over the next few years. During this first year, participating courts served over 2,000 persons; trained over 450 court staff, community-based organizations, and therapists; and developed training booklets and audiotapes for non-professional supervised visitation providers which were reproduced in Spanish, Vietnamese, Korean and English. In addition, these funds supported the development of the Shasta Shared Parenting Support Program, a mobile multi-media, PowerPoint, parent education program and a parent

education curriculum which addresses the special needs of families in which domestic violence is an issue.

First Year Grantee Recipients

Congratulations to the following court programs for their outstanding work this first year:

Amador County Superior Court: This tri-county (Amador, Tuolumne, and Calaveras) family services program provides three primary services for families who have separated--(1) pre-mediation parent education, (2) parent education workshops, and (3) neutral exchange and supervised visitation for both parents.

Contra Costa County Unified Court: The VECTOR (Visitation, Education Collaboration, Training, Outreach, and Research) project involves collaboration among five neighboring counties [Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Sonoma, and Stanislaus] to provide non-custodial parents with access options to their children. Services include supervised visitation, therapeutic visitation, education and counseling, and safe exchange site.

Fresno County Courts: FAST (Family Access Services Team) provides supervised visitations, exchange services, and parent education to custodial and non-custodial parents. FAST provides services to Fresno, Kings, Madera, and Tulare counties and collaborates with CYS (Comprehensive Youth Services), a community-based organization, which already provide these services.

LA County Superior Court: The SAFE (Safe Access and Friendly Exchange for KIDS) program seeks to ensure children safe, continuing access to their non-custodial parents

by providing on-site, low-fee, supervised visitation and neutral exchange locations throughout Los Angeles County.

LA County Superior Court: The For the Children program seeks to address the lack of parent education resources for divorced, separating, and never-married families. The program will establish a parent education alternative for families in which domestic violence has occurred.

Mendocino County Coordinated Courts is a collaborative effort with three county court systems (Mendocino, Humboldt, Del Norte) and two private non-profits. The goal of the collaborative is to expand and enhance parent education services, opportunities, and access between non-custodial parents and their children by increasing the scope and availability of support services to families with children who are now or have been in family court.

Orange County Superior Court: The Supervised Visitation Project is a collaboration with non-profit and profit agencies to implement the Judicial Councils' Uniform Standards of Practice for Supervised Visitation Providers.

Sacramento County Unified Court: The Access to Visitation Program was created to respond to the needs of children caught in the middle of divorce, domestic violence, and other high conflict family circumstances. This program will make affordable supervised visitation programs available in the five participating counties (El Dorado, Placer, Sacramento, San Joaquin, and Yolo) and establish safe exchanges sites for high-conflict families.

San Bernardino County Superior and Municipal Court: The PACTS



(Parents and Children Together Safely) program is a cooperative plan between the courts, the private non-profit sector and county government programs. Their focus was to increase the accessibility of non-custodial parents to their children by

providing a center for supervised visitation, parent education, and group counseling for parents who have substance abuse issues.

San Diego County Superior Court:

The Real Solutions Visitation Program (RSVP) strives to provide safe places for troubled families to come together to resolve their conflicts for the sake of the children; to reduce the waiting list for services for families; and to prevent family violence during family transitions.

San Francisco Unified Family Court formed the Family Cohesion Collaborative with Rally Project of Saint Francis Memorial Hospital in San Francisco, APPLE Family Works in Marin County, and COPE in Napa County. They will expand current services of supervised visitation, develop pre-mediation and orientation and skills-based parent education, and increase training for staff and volunteers.

Santa Barbara County Superior Court: The PAPA (Parental Access Program Alliance) project aims to increase parental responsibility to children and compliance with the law. Programs and services are provided in three neighboring counties (Santa Barbara, Ventura, and San Luis Obispo) through non-profit agencies and will focus on affordable supervised visitation services, group counseling, and implementing "Children in the Middle" parent education groups.

Santa Clara Consolidated Courts: Connections for Kids--A Five-County Collaboration for Integrated Access

Program is a collaboration between family courts and community non-profit agencies in Santa Clara, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Monterey, San Benito Counties. The overall goals of the collaboration is to increase children's access to their non-custodial parents and the parents' sense of responsibility for the welfare of their children, reduce trauma for children in family conflict, and improve the quality of parent/child relationships.

Shasta County Superior Court:

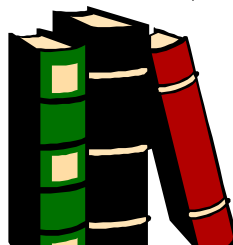
United Parents Access Plan is a collaborative efforts of the Shasta, Tehama, Trinity, and Siskiyou County Courts and several agencies in the north state area to meet the needs of non-residential parents through parent education, supervised visitation, and a safe exchange program.

Second Year Grantee Recipients

The eight Administrative Courts to receive second year funding under the Access to Visitation Grant Program are: Los Angeles, Mendocino, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Francisco, Santa Barbara, Santa Clara, and Shasta.

Funding announcements and grant application material for fiscal year 1999-2000 will be available soon. All California Family Courts are eligible to receive these funds. These grant funds are 100% federal funds. Applicants are encouraged to involve multiple courts and counties in their proposed programs, with one court acting as an administrative court.

For more information on the Access Grant Program, please contact Timothy Gemelli, Access Grant Coordinator at or Youn Kim, Staff



Analyst .



San Diego Grant Explores Pre-Mediation Parent Education

In the first grant awarded by the Statewide Office of Family Court Services to examine effects of group educational programs on the resolution of child custody and visitation disputes, the San Diego County Family Court Services led a pioneering effort that indicated that most parents found such education useful in the mediation conferences and that it could reduce demands on the court.

The major goals of the four-hour Pre-Mediation Program, led by Project Director Ruth Hatcher and Project Research Coordinator, Don Millikan, were to explain the mediation process and encourage participants to focus on the children's needs during divorce. A strength of the study, often missing in program evaluations, was the use of an experimental research design. Approximately half of the couples in the study were randomly assigned to participate in the pre-mediation program while the others, who did not

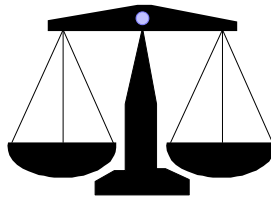
receive training, served as a comparison group.

Among the results:

- **Parents valued their participation in the program.** Nearly all parents who participated in the training (95 percent) agreed that the class helped them to see ways to keep children from getting entangled in parents' conflicts.
- **Parents found their training useful for mediation.** After mediation, parents who received training were more likely than parents in the comparison group to recommend that pre-mediation training should be required of all parents. Relative to the comparison group, trained parents were more likely after their mediation to report having had helpful conversations with the other parent in preparing for mediation. (Twenty-two percent of the comparison group and 30 percent of the trained group reported helpful conversations.)
- **Training may have reduced some demands on the courts.** In San Diego, mediators report child custody and sharing plans to the court and may make recommendations in the absence of agreements. If the couple had participated in the education program, the child custody and sharing plans were more likely to be entered by stipulation, rather than by the judge's decision. Agreements to the provisions of the mediators' reports were entered by 30 percent of the parents who attended class compared with 16 percent who had not.

For more information about the San Diego study or the Research Grant Program of the Statewide Office of

Family Court Services, contact Andrea Lash, Ph.D., Senior



Research Analyst.

Trial Court Funding Update

The following is excerpted from a February 9, 1999 summary memorandum written by Hon. Ray L. Hart, Chair, Trial Court Budget Commission, and Jonathan Wolin, Manager, Trial Court Funding Unit addressed to the Judicial Council.

On November 19, 1998, the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) presented its Proposal to Restructure the Trial Court Budget Development Process for Fiscal Year 2000–2001 and beyond to the Executive and Planning Committee of the Judicial Council.

Issues — Four major themes emerged from the comments received regarding the Budget Restructuring Proposal (BRP).

1. First, it was felt that there was insufficient lead-time to fully develop an effective survey instrument (i.e., Survey II) that could be completed by a majority of the courts under the proposed budget development process for FY 2000–2001.
2. Secondly, a concern was focused on the inability of the smaller

courts to submit meaningful budget requests, given the limitations of the uniform dollar cap applied to all court systems.

3. Thirdly, some expressed concern about developing an effective budget for FY 2000–2001 budget solely on data extracted from Needs Assessment Survey II. Those who expressed such concern requested that some portion of the current incremental process be retained.
4. Lastly, a concern was raised about addressing the resource needs associated with new initiatives before addressing the resource needs related to existing workloads and documented anticipated workloads.

Perhaps most importantly, courts expressed a desire to help redefine the budgeting process by establishing a strong partnership with the TCBC, AOC and the Council.

Proposed Response to address these Issues —

The following alternative approach is being recommended *[and was adopted]* by the Allocation Committee and the Budget Evaluation and Appeals Committee (BEAC) of the Trial Court Budget Commission (TCBC) to address the above concerns while maintaining the integrity of the Program Budgeting process.

I. BUDGET DEVELOPMENT FOR FY 2000–2001—STATEWIDE & LOCAL

A. SURVEY I —DETERMINE RECOMMENDED PRIORITY AREAS:

1. **Recommend Priority Areas:** Information from Survey I will be used by the TCBC to identify

program areas that impact trial courts statewide, with initial dollar estimates.

2. Define Local Needs: In addition, trial courts may submit locally identified needs, which are not addressed in the program areas described above, with initial dollar estimates.

Note: There will not be any dollar caps on the initial estimates from the courts on both the program areas impacting trial courts statewide and the locally identified needs.

B. SURVEY II — SUPPORT SPECIFIC PRIORITY PROGRAM AREAS:

The dollar amounts for each Judicial Council priority area would be established by analysis of the following elements:

1. Operating & Service Level Information:

Survey II will focus only on updating the operating and service level information collected annually from the court systems. Survey II will allow the trial courts to update the OSL information that was previously submitted in May of 1998 for development of the FY 1999–2000 budget request. **No new data will be requested of the courts via Survey II for development of the TCBC recommended FY 2000–2001 budget.**

2. Quantifiable Data

The TCBC will review the quantifiable data already collected by the AOC (i.e., monthly statistical data, past surveys, other court profile information) which will be sent to the trial courts for verification.

3. Budget Requests For FY 2000–2001:

Allow each court system to submit a budget request for each council-approved priority program area. As was the case in the development of FY 1999–2000 budget, the budget recommendation and BCPs for FY 2000–2001 will be developed through a combination of individual budget requests and workload and other information from existing data, re-verified by the courts, that already exists in the AOC database.

The budget requests submitted by the trial courts will be used solely to build the statewide trial court budget request for FY 2000–2001, consistent with Judicial Council policy directives. The actual allocation of funds for FY 2000–2001 will be based on the process described in Section II. below.

C. ALLOCATION OF FUNDS FOR FY 2000–2001

ALLOCATION FACTORS FOR FY 2000–2001: The TCBC allocation recommendations for FY 2000–2001 will take into consideration the following factors:

1. Deficiency Appropriation: Any deficiency appropriation that addresses the program areas also included in the FY 2000–2001 budget request;
2. Council Policy Direction: Policy direction incorporated in the Judicial Council Trial Court Budget request for FY 2000–2001;
3. Governor's Proposed Budget: Policy direction in the Governor's proposed State Budget for FY 2000–2001;

4. Legislature's Appropriation: Budget control language in the FY 2000–2001 Budget Act and appropriation bill(s);
5. Updated OSL Information: Updated operating and service level (OSL) information gathered in Survey II to be completed March–April of 2000; and
6. Budget Requests: The budget requests submitted by trial court systems, via Survey II for FY 2000–2001.

B. ALLOCATION CRITERIA AND METHODOLOGY FOR FY 2000–2001:

Representatives from the trial courts, council advisory committees and task forces, and staff from the AOC will, upon approval of the budget development process, begin work on developing the proposed criteria and methodology for the allocation of the appropriation for FY 2000–2001 and beyond. The resulting methodology will be based upon consideration of the above-mentioned six factors. This input will be provided to the Allocation Committee of the TCBC, which will then formulate its recommendations to the TCBC.

II. BASELINE BUDGET ISSUES (i.e., historical underfunding)

The baseline budget formula, as previously approved by the council, will not be changed as a result of this proposal. The trial courts, pursuant to previously approved council policy, may move funding from one program area to another to address critical needs, as determined by the court.

A. BUDGET REQUESTS

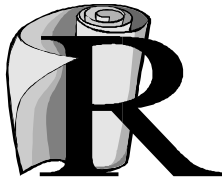
Trial courts may submit a budget request in each of the council-

designated program priority areas in order to address existing workload, documented anticipated workload, as well as new initiatives in each designated priority program area.

B. UNANTICIPATED COSTS

Consistent with the state budgeting process, in rare and extraordinary circumstances, opportunities may arise to secure additional funding to address unanticipated critical costs that cannot be managed in any other possible way.

For information related to Trial Court issues, please contact Mimi Lyster.



Review of the Uniform State Child Support Guidelines

The Judicial Council has completed its review of California's child support guidelines. The report, *Review of the Uniform State Child Support Guideline 1998*, was prepared for the Legislature and the California Department of Social Services pursuant to Family Code sections 4054. A team of experienced family law and child support attorneys and paralegals collected data from more than 3,000 court files containing child support orders. The report is the second review of California's child

support guideline prepared by the Judicial Council.

Federal law requires that each state establish a uniform guideline to determine child support orders. The guideline must create a rebuttable

presumption that the amount of support calculated under the guideline is the correct amount of support. Federal law also requires that each state review its child support guideline every four years to ensure that application of the

guideline results in the determination of appropriate child support awards. As such, the Legislature directed the Judicial Council to review California's child support guidelines.

The report includes a review of the history of the development of the uniform child support guidelines in California, data available on the cost of raising children, and an analysis of studies from other states related to child support guidelines. In addition to summarizing a comprehensive study of child support orders, the report includes:

- Section 1 provides a general introduction;
- Section 2 reviews the history of the child support guidelines in California;
- Section 3 provides a detailed description of the operation and implementation of the guidelines;
- Section 4 summarizes the relevant case law for interpreting various aspects of the guidelines;
- Section 5 discusses the forms adopted by the Judicial Council for implementing the guidelines;
- Section 6 presents the result of the study and how the courts are applying the guideline in individual cases;
- Section 7 compares selected guideline provisions with provisions in other states;

- Section 8 reviews the studies and information on spending patterns relating to children;
- Section 9 reviews reports and studies on child support guidelines from other states and research available to or undertaken by the Judicial Council; and
- Section 10 provides a conclusion.

Case Study

The objective of the study was to determine to what extent courts are following the guidelines and to identify the number of, and reasons for, court orders that deviate from the child support guideline. The report contains the results of a study of 3,000 child support orders obtained in California. The support orders that were studied were from actions filed in the courts to establish or modify a child support order between July 1, 1995 and June 30, 1996. The cases reviewed for the study included initial orders as well as modifications of child support orders in dissolution's, legal separations, paternity actions, and domestic violence prevention act (restraining orders) cases, and cases brought by the district attorneys office. The case sampling consisted of Title VI-D and non-Title VI-D cases. Eleven counties participated in the study: Alameda, Amador, Fresno, Los Angeles, San Diego, San Luis Obispo Santa Clara, Siskiyou, Solano, Tehama, and Tulare.

California's child support guidelines are found at Family Code sections 4050-4076. The amount of support determined under the guideline is presumed to be the correct amount of support ordered by the court. The presumption may be rebutted only if the court finds by a preponderance of the evidence that the application of the guideline would be unjust and inappropriate in a particular case because of one of the list of factors specified in the statute.

Results of the Study

The results of the case study revealed that the vast majority of child support orders made during this period conform to the presumptive amount of the guideline. Once the amount of the parent's income and time-share with their children is established, the computation of support under the guideline is automatic.

Cases in which the presumptive amount of support was rebutted and a different amount was order was limited to less than 10 percent of the cases studied. The majority of deviations were based on an agreement between the parents that support in an amount other than the guideline was in the best interest of their children.

The following were the most significant findings from the report:

- Most cases follow the child support guideline;
- The most common reason for not following the guideline was that the parents agreed not follow it;
- In cases in which the order was not set at the statutory guideline amount, orders were somewhat more likely to be lower than the guideline amount than higher than the guideline amount;
- The gross income reported for most parents was less than \$2,000 per month;
- If the payor's income was unknown, courts often based an order on that parent's ability to earn the minimum wage;
- The low-income adjustment, which lowers the amount of child support due for payors who earn less than \$1,000 per month net income, was granted in approximately 10 percent of the cases examined;
- In most of the cases examined, the support order was obtained by default;
- Most support orders covered only one child;
- Hardship deductions from income were granted in only 7 percent of the cases. The deductions were mostly for children of another relationship;
- Most parents did not have attorneys representing them in their child support cases.

Since the California guideline complied with federal requirements, and the vast majority of support orders were appropriate under the statutory guidelines, no recommendations for revisions to California's guideline were made in the report. Although no recommendations for revisions to the child support guideline are made, the report identified several issues that did deserve further study. They were as follows:

1. *The lack of appropriate documentation of factual determinations required by statute in the court file requires further study to determine whether a standard imputed income should be used in private cases in which the respondent fails to answer and provide income information;*
2. *Reasons why the low-income adjustment was granted in so few cases when applicants qualified for the adjustment;*
3. *Consideration of the multi-family (prior or subsequent families) and hardship deductions;*
4. *The increasing number of pro-per litigants; and*
5. *The needs for additional resources for further case study.*

For copies of the report, please contact Carolyn Castaneda at the Judicial Council's Public Information Office.



Domestic Violence:



Update

A Study on Domestic Violence Courts

Speaker of the Assembly Sheila Kuehl's AB2700 was passed by the legislature in 1998 and has become Family Code Section 6390. The Judicial Council is now mandated to conduct a descriptive study of the various domestic violence courts established in California and other states. The study is due to the legislature no later than March 1, 2000. As used in this section, "domestic violence courts" means the assignment of civil or criminal cases, or both, involving domestic violence to one department of the superior court or municipal court, consistent with the jurisdiction of these courts. The study is to describe the policies and procedures used in domestic violence courts and provide an analysis and rationale for the common features of these courts. The study shall identify issues and potential obstacles, if any, to be considered in developing and implementing effective domestic violence courts at the local level.

The rationale for this California initiative reflects broader issues about specialized domestic violence courts. Although such courts hold great promise as a highly effective and efficient approach to adjudicating both criminal and civil domestic violence cases, there currently is, however, little empirical evidence regarding their effectiveness. A threshold issue has been the lack of a basic understanding of what constitutes a domestic violence court and what it should be expected to achieve. This in turn has thwarted the development of coherent body of evaluation on the effectiveness of the various types of domestic violence courts operating across the country. The National Center for State courts is now working on an 18-month project to build a common understanding of the goals and operations of the various models of domestic violence courts and to develop measures these courts and others can use to assess their performance. The national project will create the first comprehensive catalogue of domestic violence courts in the United States and a set of performance goals and related measures for these courts will be developed with the advice of practitioners and domestic violence professionals.

As there was no funding attached to California's legislative mandate, implementing it will be challenging. However, Staff at the AOC from the SOFCS, the Council and Legal Services (CALS) and College of Judicial Education and Research (CJER) have been collaborating on developing a process to implement the study. Tentatively, a **Domestic Violence Courts Study Focus Group** will meet in Oakland on **June 3, 1999**, the day prior to the **Statewide Family Violence County Coordinating Councils**

Fifth Annual Reunion. Members of domestic violence courts staff will be invited. Please let Susan Hanks know if you are interested in attending or would like to suggest someone to attend.

SAVE THE DATE

**Family Violence Prevention
County Coordinating Councils
Fifth Annual Statewide Reunion
Oakland Marriott Hotel
June 4, 1999**

Mandatory Domestic Violence Training for Court-Appointed Child Custody Evaluators and Investigators

The Judicial Council adopted the Domestic Violence Training Standards for Court-Appointed Child Custody Investigators and Evaluators as California Rules of Court rule 1257.7, effective January 1, 1999. To date, over 1000 child custody evaluators (approximately 920 of whom are private practitioners, the remaining 80 are court-based evaluators) have completed the initial twelve hour basic training in twenty trainings offered through out the state. These trainings have truly been a collaborative court-community collaborative effort, representing an incredible amount of time, effort, and expertise by hundreds of people from the courts and private sectors across the state who have participated as faculty and planners.

The required four-hour Annual Update Trainings are now beginning to be offered. Additional trainings are being planned. Updated schedules can be obtained from Susan Hanks.



Future Mandatory Domestic Violence Training

4 Hour Annual Update Trainings

- Santa Clara County, March 1999
- Contra Costa County, April 24, 1999

- San Diego County, May, 1999

12 Hour Basic Training

- Sonoma County, June, 1999 (date TBA)
- Riverside county, June 18-19, 1999

FCS Domestic Violence Protocols: Headed for Judicial Council Approval in 2001

California Family Code section 3170 (b) mandates that "Domestic violence cases shall be handled by Family Court Services in accordance with a separate written protocol approved by the Judicial Council." The complexities, controversies and conundrums inherent in developing these special "handling" protocols are considerable.

The statewide effort to develop these protocols is being renewed in Fall 1999. A proposal for a statewide effort based on a collaborative court-community model will be presented by Susan Hanks at the March 1999 Statewide Directors Meeting. The soon-to-be-proposed regionalized strategy for developing these protocols will allow for participation and input by all Family Court Services in all counties throughout the State and by the multitude of community stakeholders concerned about this issue.



**U.S. Department of
Justice and
VERA Institute of
Justice:
Mediation and Domestic
Violence Focus Group**

The New York City based **Vera Institute of Justice**, on behalf of the **U. S. Department of Justice**, sponsored an invitational **Focus Group** meeting in Washington, DC in January 1999 on **Mediation and Domestic Violence**. Judge Mary Ann Grilli of Santa Clara County and Susan Hanks, Ph.D. of the SOFCS were invited to attend as representatives of the California Family Courts.

California's statute requires mandatory mediation in disputed child custody cases has been historically very ambivalently received in domestic violence advocacy circles. "Mandatory Mediation" was of particular interest to the focus group and sponsors, particularly to representatives of the DOJ's Violence Against Women's Office. Susan Hanks, Ph.D. was invited to make a special presentation to the group on California: [A Case Study in the Evolution of the "Special Handling of Domestic Violence in Family Court"](#). It is clear that California, while far from perfect, is "blessed" with active advocacy, legislative, public and court communities who are willing to grapple with one another on these issues. For instance, in responses to

the range of activities in California Family Court Services devoted to domestic violence, Supervising Judge Susan Carbon from New Hampshire later wrote that she was "amazed at all of the work which the Judicial Council has undertaken in California... it is simply incredible that [California family courts] are able to provide such services for the public."

**Domestic Violence
Resources & Information**

***Domestic Violence: What
Judges Need to Know***

The College on Judicial Education and Research (CJER) Domestic Violence Curriculum Planning Committee has completed an excellent video teaching guide for new judges' training. The curriculum guide, which was authored by Nancy Lemon and carefully reviewed by the Committee members, is now being piloted and is not yet available for general use. However, the national version of the CJER video tape, entitled ***Domestic Violence: What Judges Need to Know***, was produced collaboratively with the San Francisco Family Violence Prevention Fund and is available for general distribution. For more information, contact Ms. Bobbie Welling, CJER Program Attorney at the AOC.



**New Videos for Pro Pers:
Domestic Violence
Restraining Orders and
Family Law**

Three years in the making, the FCS pro per videos: "Going to Court Without a Lawyer—Divorce, Legal Separation, and Annulment"; "Domestic Violence Restraining Orders: A Guide for Restrained Parties (Respondent)"; and "Domestic Violence: A Guide for Protected Parties (Petitioner)" will be previewed at the March FCS Statewide Educational Institute in Newport Beach. They will soon be distributed to 400 courts throughout the State, translated into Spanish, and accompanied by a pamphlet. Digital technology will make it possible to periodically update the videos so they can stay current with state laws, court procedures and forms, and feature both the text of the brochures and selected clips from all three videos.

The restraining order scripts have been purposefully crafted to address issues relating to petitioners and respondents. Petitioners (usually women who are battered) are encouraged to carefully think through applying for a restraining order given the fact that seeking a restraining order may increase their danger. Respondents (usually men alleged to have been violent) are encouraged to "think in their own best interests", and to refrain from violence as a response to being served with a restraining order. Both parties are encouraged to consider the impact of violence on their children.

Look in your local family court after May 1 for copies of the following:

- ❑ [Domestic Violence
Temporary Restraining
Orders: Orientation
Video for Petitioners](#)
- ❑ [Domestic Violence
Temporary Restraining
Orders: Orientation
Video for Respondents](#)
- ❑ [Going to Court without
a Lawyer](#)

For information regarding the pro per videos, contact Mimi Lyster.

When Men Batter Women: New Insights Into Ending Abusive Relationships

**Neil Jacobson, Ph. D., Expert
On Men And Domestic
Violence At FCS Statewide**

Neil Jacobson, Ph. D., from the University of Washington, Seattle will be a featured presenter and special consultant at the March Family Court Service Annual Statewide meeting in Newport Beach. Dr. Jacobson is a well-recognized research and clinical psychologist who has published extensively for over twenty years in areas of couple and family therapy. His recent research, spanning the past decade with Dr. John Gottman focuses on the dynamics of 200 seriously violent couples and resulted in the publication of When Men Batter Women: New Insights

Into Ending Abusive Relationships. (1998, New York: Simon & Schuster).

Jacobson and Gottman identified at least two types of men who batter, who they colloquially call "pit bulls" and "cobras". Pit bulls are men whose emotions quickly boil over, whereas cobras are men who are cool and methodical as they inflict pain and humiliation on their spouses. These distinctions among men who batter are important to understand, as they having implications for assessing issues of safety and dangerousness. Distinguishing among the differing characteristics of men who batter reflects a major and important trend in the domestic violence research and clinical practice fields. Dr. Jacobson was a very well received speaker at the FCS Southern Regional Conference in Palm Springs last September.

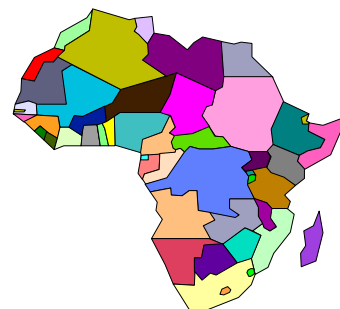
Dr. Jacobson will also be available for **special consultation with Family Court Services on Thursday, March 25th, from 6:30 – 8:30 PM.**

We will be asking him to particularly consult with us on the development of the Judicial Council Guidelines for Family Court Services' Handling of Domestic Violence Cases.

Anyone who is interested can feel free to attend the consultation and take advantage of this very special opportunity. Please leave a message for Susan Hanks, Ph. D. or Shelly Danridge if you are interested in



attending.



International Perspectives on Domestic Violence

The January, 1999 issue of the American Psychologist, the journal of the American Psychological Association (Volume 54, Number 1) is devoted to International Perspectives on Domestic Violence. These articles discuss psychology, public policy and domestic violence around the world, including Nicaragua, Chile, Mexico, Japan, Russia, the Pacific Islands, Greece, Latin American (Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay), Israel and the Arab Sectors. The worldwide range of these papers speaks to the ubiquity of domestic violence around the globe (and not simply as being a problem in California). A world wide perspective counter-balances perceptions that allegations of domestic violence are fabricated or exaggerated by over zealous communities or litigants.

FYI:

**6th International Family
Violence Research
Conference
New England Conference
Center, Durham, NH
July 25th—July 28th**

Contact Information: Melissa Averill,
Conference Secretary, Family
Research Laboratory, University of
New Hampshire, #126 Horton Social

Science Center, Durham, NH 03824.
Phone: (603) 862-9767; Fax: (603) 862-1122.

Anyone wishing to relay information, raise questions, inform colleagues about court or community developments, share controversies or conundrums is encouraged to contribute to the **Domestic Violence Update** by contacting Susan Hanks or Shelly Danridge.



New Court Rules for 1999

The Judicial Council adopted new Uniform Standards of Practice for court-connected child custody mediators and court-appointed evaluators and investigators as California Rules of Court. These rules set forth standards of practice and administration for court-connected child custody mediation and evaluation services and domestic violence training standards for court appointed evaluators and investigators.

The following is a summary listing of new and amended California Rules of Court and Standards of Judicial Administration.

California Rules of Court for Mediation, Evaluation, and Domestic Violence Training

1. Rule 1257.1 Uniform Standards of Practice for Court-Connected Child Custody Mediation [This rule is effective July 1, 2001]

The Family Law Act of 1980 mandated mediation for all child custody or visitation disputes in the state of California. Statutes 1989, chapter 1265 (Assembly Bill 1906 [Committee on Judiciary]) required the Judicial Council to develop Uniform Standards of Practice for Court-Connected Mediation of Child Custody and Visitation Disputes. These standards were adopted January 1, 1991, pursuant to former Civil Code section 4607.1 (now Family Code section 3162) as California Standards of Judicial Administration, section 26. The new rule sets forth revised Uniform Standards of Practice for Court-Connected Child Custody Mediation, effective July 1, 2001.

2. Rule 1257.3 Uniform Standards of Practice for Court-Ordered Child Custody Evaluations [Effective January 1, 1999]

The courts order child custody evaluations, investigations, and assessments to assist in determining the health, safety, welfare, and best interest of the child related to custody and visitation disputes. Statutes 1996, chapter 761 (SB 1995 [O'Connell]) required the Judicial Council to develop standards for full and partial court-ordered child custody evaluations, investigations, and assessments related to child custody. This legislation became Family Code section 3117. The new rule sets forth standards of practice and

administration for court-connected and private sector evaluators appointed under Family Code section 3111, Evidence Code section 730, or Code of Civil Procedure section 2032.

3. Rule 1257.7 Domestic Violence Training Standards for Court-Appointed Child Custody Investigators and Evaluators. [Effective January 1, 1999]

Statutes 1996, chapter 761 (Senate Bill 1995 [O'Connell]) required the Judicial Council to (1) prescribe standards for domestic violence training for court-appointed child custody evaluators and investigators; and, (2) draft a statewide rule of court requiring domestic violence training for all court-appointed persons who evaluate or investigate child custody matters. This legislation became Family Code section 3111 (d) and 3111(e). The new rule precludes the appointment of a person as a court-appointed investigator or evaluator unless the person has completed a specified domestic violence training program.

Repealed Rules

Rule 1257 Procedures for court-appointed investigations in child custody disputes, effective 1/1/99.

Repealed Standards

Section 26 Uniform Standards of Practice for court-connected mediation of child custody and visitation disputes [This section is repealed effective July 1, 2001].

New Family Law Forms

The following are new, revised, or revoked forms approved by the Judicial Council, effective January 1, 1999:

Family Law (Rules 1281-1299.67)

1282.50 [Revised]: Appearance, Stipulations, and Waivers

1285 [Revised]: Order to Show Cause (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1285.05 [Revised]: Temporary Orders (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1285.10 [Revised]: Notice of Motion (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1285.20 [Revised]: Application for Order and Supporting Declaration (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1285.40 [Revised]: Responsive Declaration to Order to Show Cause or Notice of Motion (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

12885.79 [New]: Information Sheet on Changing a Child Support Order

1285.88 [New]: Notice of Registration of Out-of-State Support Order

1285.90 [New]: Request for Hearing Regarding Registration of Support Order

1286 [Revised]: Request to Enter Default (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1287 [Revised]: Judgement (family Law)

1290 [Revised]: Notice of Entry of Judgment (Family Law-Uniform Parentage)

1290.5 [New]: Notice of Withdrawal of Attorney of Record

Domestic Violence and Child Abuse Prevention

1295.90 [Revised]: Emergency Protective Order (CLETS) (Domestic Violence, Child Abuse, Workplace Violence, and Civil Harassment)

1296 [Revoked]: Application and Declaration Order (Domestic Violence) {see new DV-100 and DV-100A}

1296.10 [Revoked]: Order to Show Cause and Temporary Restraining Order (CLETS) (Domestic Violence) {see new DV-110}

1296.20 [Revoked]: Responsive Declaration to Order to Show Cause (Domestic Violence Prevention) {see new DV-120}

1296.29 [Revoked]: Restraining Order after Hearing (CLETS) (Domestic Violence) {see new SV-130}

1296.31A [Revised]: Child Custody and Visitation Order Attachment (Family Law-Domestic Violence Prevention-Uniform Parentage)

1296.31 A (1) [New]: Supervised Visitation Order (Family Law-Domestic Violence Prevention-Uniform Parentage)

1296.31 B [Revised]: Child Support Information and Attachment (Family Law-Domestic Violence Prevention-Uniform Parentage)

1296.31 B (1) [Revised]: Non-Guideline Child Support Findings Attachment (Family Law-Domestic Violence-Uniform Parentage-Governmental)

1296.31 C [Revised]: Spousal or Family Support Order Attachment

1296.40 [Revoked]: Proof of Service {see new DV-140}

1296.45 [New]: Registration of Foreign Domestic Violence Restraining Order and Order (CLETS) (Domestic Violence Prevention)

Domestic Violence Prevention (New)

DV-100: Application and Declaration for Order (Domestic Violence Prevention)

DV-100A: Child Custody, Visitation, and Support Order Attachment to Application and Declaration Order (Domestic Violence Prevention)

DV-110: Order to Show Cause and Temporary Restraining Order (CLETS) (Domestic Violence)

DV-120: Responsive Declaration to Order to Show Cause (Domestic Violence Prevention)

DV-130: Restraining Order After Hearing (CLETS) (Domestic Violence Prevention)

DV-140: Proof of Service (Family Law-Uniform Parentage-Domestic Violence Prevention)

Civil Harassment

CH-120 [Revised]: Order to Show Cause and Temporary Restraining Order (CLETS) (Harassment)

CH-140 [Revised]: Order After Hearing on Petition for Injunction Prohibiting Harassment (CLETS)

Workplace Harassment

WH-100 [Revised]: Response to Petition for Injunction Prohibiting Harassment of Employee (Workplace Harassment)

Parentage

1296.60 [Revised]: Petition to Establish Parental Relationship (Uniform Parentage)

1296.605 [New]: Summons (Uniform Parentage-Petition for Custody)

1296.61 [Revoked]: Standard Restraining Order (Uniform Parentage-Custody)

1296.65 [Revised]: Response to Petition to Establish Parental Relationship (Uniform Parentage)

1296.70 [New]: Declaration for Default or Uncontested Judgment (Uniform Parentage)

1296.72 [New]: Advisement and waiver of Rights Re: Establishment of Parental Relationship (Uniform Parentage)

1296.74 [New]: Stipulation for Entry of Judgement Re: Establishment of Parental Relationship (Uniform Parentage)

1296.75 [New]: Judgement (Uniform Parentage)

1296.80 [New]: Petition for Custody of Minor Children

Support

1297.80 [Revoked]: Notice of Review Hearing Regarding Child Support and Recommendation of Commissioner or Referee (Code of Iv. Pro. § 640.1)

1297.82 [Revoked]: Order After Review Hearing (Code of Civ. Pro. § 640.1)

New Family Code Provisions

The 1999 Family Code provisions listed below govern only Division 8 (Custody of Children) and Division 10 (Prevention of Domestic Violence) of the Family Code.

Family Code § 3030 {Registered Sex Offender, Person Convicted of Child Abuse or Child Molestation, or Person Convicted of Rape Which Resulted in Child's Conception Not Entitled to Custody or Unsupervised Visitation of Child; Child Support Paid Through District Attorney; Confidentiality}

Family Code § 3190 {Order Requiring Counseling}

Family Code § 6203 {Abuse}
Adds new section (d) defining abuse which provides "to engage in any behavior that has been or could be enjoined pursuant to section 6320."

Family Code § 6380 {Notification of Department of Justice; Maintenance of Registry of Orders}

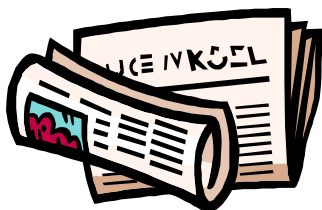
Family Code § 6380.5 {Out-of-State Protective Orders; Validity, Registration, and Enforcement}

Pilot Project for Court Interpreters in Custody Matters

Statutes 1998, chapter 981 (Assembly Bill 1884) requires the Judicial Council to establish a one-year pilot project, beginning July 1, 1999, in at least two counties, including Los Angeles, to provide interpreter services for any child custody proceeding, including mediation. This legislation became Family Code section 3032. Assembly Bill 1884 provides that the court shall appoint

(at the courts expense) an interpreter to interpret the court proceedings if (1) one or both of the parties is unable to participate in the proceeding due to a lack of proficiency in English; and (2) if the court determines that the party appearing in pro per needs an interpreter and cannot financially afford one.

For additional information regarding the court interpreters pilot project; please contact Joseph Wong, Court



Interpreters Program, Program Manage.

Miscellaneous News and Notes:

Welfare-to Work Funds Focus on Fathers

On January 25, 1999 President Clinton announced a new package of initiatives designed to ensure those remaining on welfare would make a successful transition from welfare to work. The initiatives this year have a new focus—to increase the employment of low-income fathers so they can support their children. At least \$150 million is being dedicated to helping fathers fulfill their responsibilities to their children by working and paying child support.

Under the proposal, states and communities would use a minimum of 20 percent of their formula funds to provide job placement and job retention assistance to low-income fathers who sign personal responsibility contract committing to work and pay child support. The President stated that this effort would increase child support collections, which have risen by some 80 percent since he has taken office.

California's Effort to Revamp Collection System

The President's initiative is good news for fathers in light of actions soon to be undertaken by the California Legislature regarding child support enforcement. The Legislature is launching a campaign to overhaul California's efforts to collect child support from parents. The legislature has unveiled a range of proposals, including what is being called the creation of a cabinet-level *child support "czar"* who would oversee the collection programs now handled by the county district attorneys.

State Senator Speier introduced Senate Bill 240, which would create a Secretary of Statewide Child Support, who would have oversight and authority over all aspects of child support orders enforced under Title IV-D of the federal Social Security Act. The intent of the Legislature is to substantially restructure the child support enforcement program and create a support delivery system that is efficient, effective, and accountable to the state and families seeking child support.

The new child support collection system is aimed at providing state oversight and management to ensure the necessary coordination and integration between state and local child support programs.

Assemblywoman Shelia Kuehl has also introduced a bill, AB 196, which would state the specific findings and intent of the Legislature regarding child support enforcement for the state of California. This bill would establish the Department of Child Support Enforcement in the California Health and Human Services Agency, and provide for the appointment of an Undersecretary for Child Support Enforcement to oversee and manage the child support and enforcement program.

VAWA '99

Congress has introduced the Violence Against Women Act of 1999 (VAWA '99), House Resolution 357. The new initiative includes a new title devoted to "Violence Against Women and the Workplace." This section establishes a grant for a national clearinghouse and resource center to assist employers and labor organizations in developing and implementing programs for domestic violence and sexual assault victims. Also found under this section, is a tax credit for businesses

implementing workplace safety programs to combat violence against women.

Title II of the bill, "Limiting the Effects of Violence on Children," would provide grants to create safe havens for children who witness domestic violence. The new initiative, *Children Exposed to Violence*, is aimed at child victims of violence and seeks to ensure that children are protected from the effects of witnessing acts of violence. President Clinton outlined four action plans as part of the new initiative:

- (1) To impose stronger penalties against individuals who physically abuse children or commit acts of violence in front of their children;
- (2) To develop and distribute information on how to better respond to the needs of children who are victims or witnesses of violence;
- (3) A \$10 million federal grant for the development of 12 programs modeled after the New Haven CD-CP, which is a partnership between the New Haven Police Department and Yale University Child Study Center that provides services and support to children who witness violence; and
- (4) The Department of Justice will be sponsoring a National Summit on Children Exposed to Violence in June.

The legislation proposed here would make important strides in improving not only the lives of women, but children as well. There has been a substantial amount of research documenting the serious, adverse effects of domestic violence on children. This bill, endorsed by and with 89 other co-sponsors, together, is a significant step in making women safer, given that every year

nearly 1.5 million women are the victims of domestic violence.



Congratulations Kleps Award Winners!

Named for the first Administrative Director of the California Courts, the Ralph N. Kleps Improvement in the Administration of the Courts Award recognizes and honors contributions made by individual courts to the administration of justice. Twelve recipients are chosen yearly by the California Judicial Administration Conference Planning Committee. The awards, given in four categories related to court size, honor the courts efforts to improve access and quality of justice for the public. Four court programs to receive this prestigious award this years are:

(1) **County of Yolo: Supervised Visitation Program**

Contact: Donna Petre, Presiding Judge of the Juvenile Court

This project is a collaboration program to provide supervised visitation, at a nominal cost to parents, as a service of the court's consolidated domestic violence/family court. Until this program began, parents without family to help them or money to pay for private supervised visitation services were cut off from their children. A local church provides the location and volunteer supervisors for the program. The local Bar Association provided funds for start up costs associated with the program. The district attorney and

local law enforcement agreed to train volunteers and patrol the site.

(2) County of Orange, Central Justice Center: Domestic Violence Registry

Contact: Robert Gray, Assistant Executive Officer

This county developed a courtwide Domestic Violence Registry for capturing and storing domestic violence-related restraining orders. Once captured on the courts disk system, a copy of a restraining order can be retrieved and sent by fax to a requesting judicial officer or law enforcement officer. Access to information stored in the Registry is available across the state 24 hours a day, 7 days a week via computer terminals located at specified court locations or the Sheriff's office. The courts Detention Release Unit serves as the primary contact and service provider for judicial officers requesting information from the Registry, and the Sheriff's Department serves as the contact and service provider for law enforcement officers.

(3) County of Shasta: Domestic Violence Imaging Project

Contact: Melissa Fowler-Bradley, Assistant Court Executive Officer

This project established an automated imaging system that provides police agencies with instant, 24-hour access to protective orders for verification and enforcement. The program provides greater assistance to domestic violence litigants by significantly reducing the amount of effort necessary to communicate the existence of restraining orders to law enforcement. The system includes all restraining orders issued in family law cases and is being modified to include criminal warrants. The project is grant funded and also includes a three-segment video

training program and manual for local law enforcement.

(4) County of Ventura: Self-Help Legal Access Center

Contact: Sheila Gonzalez, Executive Officer and Clerk

This project is a self-help legal access center to assist pro-pers in all areas of the law, provide community outreach and education about the court's role, refer individuals to community resources to help them solve problems that the court cannot resolve, and work with local schools to expand early intervention programs for juveniles such as teen court. The center has computer terminals for litigants to access information (court and legal), stations to view videotapes on a variety of subjects, and a library of user-friendly books written for lay people. A full-time attorney coordinator and an experienced bilingual clerk staff the help center. Volunteer attorneys, student interns, and *paralegals also assist the public under the direction of the center coordinator.*

The programs nominated for the Ralph N. Kleps Improvement in the Administration of the Courts Award are judged on the following criteria: (1) the activity improves the administration of the courts and reflects the intent of at least one of the goals of the Judicial Council's Long-Range Strategic Plan (Access, Fairness, and Diversity; Independence and Accountability; Modernization; Quality of Justice and Service to the Public; and Education); (2) the activity is innovative; and (3) the project is transferable to other courts.

AFCC-CA Chapter Conference

The AFCC-California Chapter's 1999 Conference, *Better Outcomes: Making*

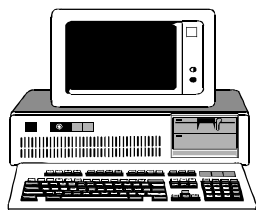
Laws and Services Friendly for Children and Their Families, was held January 24-25, 1999 at the Sonoma Mission Inn and Spa in Sonoma, CA. The interdisciplinary conference of legal and mental health professionals provided members with an excellent opportunity to dialogue, information exchange, and learn from others in the family law field. The conference focused on programmatically relevant information about court issues and trends related to family law matters.

Keynote speaker Stephen Sugarman, a professor at Boalt School of Law and author of "All Our Families" discussed the troubled state of American families. His book takes an interdisciplinary look at today's American families with a focus on calling for new policies directed toward children. Well renowned author and researcher, Joan Kelly, presented her recent research on the impact of marital conflict and violence on children and young adults, with updates in research related to children's adjustment to separation and divorce. The ever-popular Pro Bono Singers from Alameda County Family Court also enthusiastically entertained members. The political musical satire had members roaring with laughter!

The program also included various workshops on:

- *Impact of the Child Support Laws on Children*
- *Move-Aways Burden of Proof*
- *Domestic Violence—Differential Threshold of Domestic Violence for Decision Making*
- *Evaluations: Who's in Charge?*
- *Parental Alienation Syndrome*
- *Mediation: Different Models and Different Arenas*
- *Collaborative Work: Protecting Therapy for Children*
- *A Collaborative Approach to Custody Issues in Alternative Families*

- *Ethical Duties of Lawyers for Parents and Children in Custody Litigation*
- *Supervised Visitation: Issues and Standards and*
- *Setting Up a Kids' Turn Program*



Two New Electronic Information Support Systems

The Serranus Internet Site

Serranus is the Internet Site for California judges and judicial branch employees. Named in honor of Serranus Clinton Hastings, the first Chief Justice of California, this World Wide Web site provides information and links of interest to Court judicial officers and employees. The recently redesigned site features easy-to-use navigation bars and a powerful Search feature.

Need some information? **Serranus** has AOC press releases, information on Judicial Council business, proposed rules and forms, information on current legislation pertinent to the judicial branch, materials authored by judges, CJER and JAIC education calendars and catalogs, CJER Benchguides, CJER publications, and videotape lists.

Recent additions to the website include Judicial Branch Radio (JBRadio), a state-funded distance-learning project for California State Judicial Officers and Court Staff offering MCLE credit. The Y2K page

offers a forum for sharing information and solutions, as well as offering links to other helpful websites. Plans are in the works to expand **Serranus**.

Access to the site requires a logon ID and a password. Judges and judicial branch employees can register for the Web site by completing the form on page 20 of the Newsletter and mailing it to:

*Judicial Council
Administrative Office of the Courts
Information Systems
Attn: Serranus
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660*

You will be notified by mail when your account has been established, and you will then be able to log on to the Web site. If you have questions about the Web site, phone Nelson Wong.

The California Judicial Network

In 1995, the Judicial Council adopted the Report of the Court Technology Task Force as its strategic technology plan. The "Strategic Plan for Court Technology" identifies many short-and-long range needs of the judicial branch for the state of California. One such need has been a comprehensive, integrated information distribution network that establishes communication links to meet the demands of the judiciary.

The California Judicial Network (CJN) is part of a pilot project which provides the judicial branch with secure transmission of e-mail and attached documents via the Internet. This pilot project will test the viability of using the

Internet to send secure encrypted email to participants.

Courts from twelve counties, the AOC, and the DMV are participants of the pilot project. The DMV's role is to send weekly lists of Driving Under the Influence (DUI) probation violations to the courts located in the county in which the original DUI occurred. Seven sites, including the AOC, are connected and operational and seven are in the process of being connected. As of January 1, 1999, the operational sites are: the AOC, Contra Costa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Marin, Alameda, and Riverside counties. Sites in the process of being connected are: the DMV, San Diego, Orange, Sacramento, Sisikyou, Humboldt, and Shasta.

A training and promotional campaign is currently underway on the transmission of e-mail and on using the web site which holds the mater directory. In the future, report's and clerk's transcripts and other documentation (including images of evidence) associated with appeals could be transferred electronically on the appropriate network.

For information about the California Judicial Network, contact Tatiana Cherkas.



**Please Welcome SOFCS
New Staff!**

Patrick Ballard is the new Administrative Coordinator working with the Standards and Programs, Training and Education, and Special Services area of the SOFCS. Patrick has a BA in Management/Accounting and an MS in Information Systems. Prior to joining Family Court Services, Patrick worked with the Administrative Office of the Courts, Trial Court Services Division, Trial Court Funding Unit. Patrick also worked in Investment Banking as a project lead in operations.

Jenie Chang is a Graduate Student Assistant working with the Grants Program. Jenie is a recent law school graduate studying for the February Bar exam. Prior to law school, Jenie studied psychology at the University of California at Davis. In her spare time, Jenie works as a volunteer at the Randall Museum in San Francisco.

Patricia Clemons joined the FCS office in February 1999. Pat is Isa Ricci's secretary. Prior to joining the Statewide Office, Pat worked for IBM Corporation for seventeen years. Pat recently moved to Sonoma County to live near her married children and three grandchildren. In her spare time, Pat enjoys gardening, reading, movies and her family.

Timothy Gemelli comes to the Statewide Office as the new Access Grants Coordinator from San Francisco's business sponsored welfare to work initiative, San Francisco WORKS. At SFWorks, Timothy administered a \$3.2 million Employment Training Panel contract and worked extensively, contracting with community based organizations to develop and provide WiW job-training programs. Timothy previously worked with the Federal Probation Department, Central District of California and the Bureau of Prisons coordinating their Mental Health and Transitional Services

Program respectively. Prior to this, Timothy worked as a counselor primarily with substance abuse adolescents and their families.

Youn Kim recently hired as a Staff Analyst for the Access Grants Program brings experience working with non-profit organizations. Previously she worked for the Asian Law Caucus, an advocacy legal services organization as part of the development team responsible for resource development and compliance. Other organizations she worked with include The Women's Foundation, Pesticide Action Network, Asian Pacific Islander for Reproductive Health and the Oakland Museum.

Julia Lee has been working as a Secretary with FCS since September 1998. Prior to joining FCS, she worked in the Administrative Office of the Courts, Trial Court Services Division for two years. Julia finds her new job at FCS to be very interesting and rewarding. Julia has enjoyed learning about the various aspects of the family judicial system, how important their role is, and the positive effect the agency has on families in California. In her spare time, Julia enjoys watching movies, playing tennis, ballroom dancing, and listening to world music.

Stanley Sciortino is working part-time as a Research Analyst with the Research and Grants program of the SOFCS. Stanley has a MPH in Epidemiology and Biostatistics from the University of California at Berkeley. He is working on his Ph.D. at UCB entitled "Community Trauma, Segregation and Homicide Risk in the United States."

Cindy Woods is a Graduate Research Assistant working with Dr. Susan Hanks in the SOFCS Special Services area. Cindy is a second year

doctorate student working towards a Ph.D. in clinical psychology.

The Statewide Office has Returned Home...

The new Hiram W. Johnson State Office Building is home again for the Judicial Council and the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC). Effective March 1, 1999, the Statewide Office of Family Court Services has moved back to the San Francisco's Civic Center Plaza.

Some of our new neighbors in the state-of-the-art building include: the Board of Equalization; Commission on Judicial Performance; Department of Industrial Relations; Department of Justice; department of Fair Employment and Housing Department; and the Franchise Tax Board.

The main mailing address and phone number is:

*Judicial Council
Administrative Office of the Courts
Statewide Office of Family Court
Services
455 Golden Gate Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3660
(415) 865-4200 (main AOC number)*

We'll Miss You Maureen and David!

It is with a degree of sadness that we say farewell to two distinguished and extraordinary Family Court Services Directors, Maureen O'Sullivan Kammer and David Kuroda. Maureen retired this year as Director for the San Francisco County Office of Family Court Services and David Kuroda, Division Chief of the Mediation and Conciliation Service of Family Court Services for the County of Los Angeles, has started his own private counseling and mediation practice.

Maureen and David have provided more than eighteen years of service and leadership to family law. Looking back, we are mindful of the impressive legacy they leave behind. Not only have they endlessly given their time, energy, and expertise to the profession, but also they have served with a fierce dedication and commitment to the well-being of families and children.

For those of us who have had the remarkable opportunity to know and work with them and who have built years of friendship, Maureen and David will be sorely missed. Nevertheless, we celebrate them for the joy they have given, the doors they have opened, the things they did but thought they couldn't, and the victories they won, big and small.

Thank you, Maureen and David for your thoughtful deeds, your words of wisdom, and your infinite contributions to Family Court Services. ***We wish both of you great success and all the best to come!***

In honor of their gracious work, the poem below is dedicated to Maureen and David as the both of you follow your dreams.



Follow Your Dreams

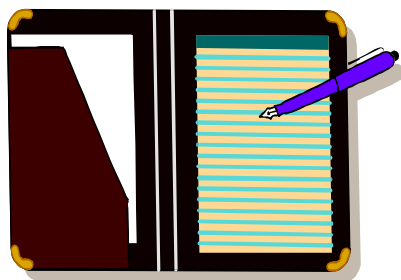
*If while pursuing distant dreams
Your bright hopes turn to gray,
Don't wait for reassuring words
Or hands to lead the way.*

*For seldom will you find a soul
With dreams the same as yours,
Not often will another help you
Pass through untried doors*

*If inner forces urge you
To take a course unknown,
Be ready to go all the way,
Yes, all the way alone.*

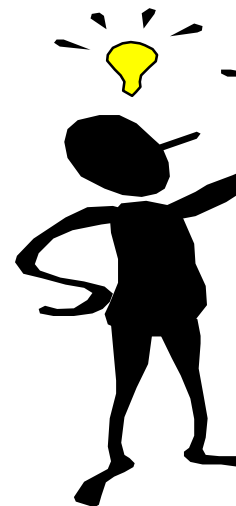
*That's not to say you shouldn't
Draw lessons from the best;
Just don't depend on lauding words
To spur you on your request.*

*Find confidence within your heart
And let it be your guide.
Strive even harder toward your dreams
And they won't be denied.
--Bruce Wilmer*



Calendar of Events....

March 24-25, 1999: Spring Directors Meeting, Newport Beach Marriott,



Newport.

March 25-27, 1999: Family Court Services Statewide Educational Institute, Newport Beach Marriott, Newport.

April 8, 1999: Southern Regional Planning Committee Meeting, Mediation & Investigative Services, Orange County

April 8, 1999: Marin, San Francisco, Napa, and Sonoma Child Abuse Prevention Councils *present* Violence Against Children: Innovations in Child Abuse Intervention and Treatment; College of Marin, Kentfield, CA

April 15-17, 1999: Supervised Visitation Network Annual Conference, Nashua, New Hampshire

April 16-17, 1999: AFCC-Child Protection and Dependency Mediation Colloquium, Hyatt Regency, Irvine, CA

April 24, 1999: 730 DV Evaluator Training (Contra Costa County), Contact Phil Stahl, Family Resolution Center, (925) 828-7660 ext. 1

April 29, 1999: Bay Area Regional Planning Meeting, AOC, 455 Golden Gate Ave., San Francisco

June 2-5, 1999: AFCC 36th Annual Conference, Westin Bayshore Hotel, Vancouver, British Columbia

June 4, 1999: Family Violence Prevention County Coordinating Councils Fifth Annual Statewide Reunion, Oakland Marriott Hotel

July 25-28, 1999: 6th International Family Violence Research Conference, New England Conference Center, Durham, NH

Editor's Note:

What events or issues interest you? What challenges are your courts contemplating? Have a new innovative program that could be profiled? We invite your comments and submission of articles and other related materials to incorporate into the newsletter.

Do you need court information? Link to the California Courts Web site located at:
www.courtinfo.ca.gov

Here you can find news on the Judicial Council, Supreme and Appellate Court News, Access and Fairness Advisory Committee, California's Drug Court Project and other state and federal government sites.

For the latest information on the ***Trial Court Employees Task Force***, check out their web site located at:
www2.courtinfo.ca.gov/tcemployees

The following are tentative dates and locations for upcoming meetings of the *Trial Court Employees Task Force*:

March 15-16	Fresno
April 14-16	Sacramento
May 18-19	San Jose
June 14-15	Orange
July 28-30	San Francisco
August 30-31	San Francisco
September 17	San Francisco

Additional AOC Contact Information

- The Center for Children and the Courts (415) 865-7739, (415) 865-4319 fax
- Child Support Project (AB 1058) (415) 865-7675
- Trial Court Funding General Number 1-800-865-9409
- Court Interpreters Program General Number (415) 865-4395

The ***FCS Update*** is a publication of the Statewide Office of Family Court Services, 455 Golden Gate Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102-3660. All correspondence can be directed to Shelly Danridge, Editor at the above address.



Serranus Clinton Hastings

Request for Registration California Judges and Judicial Branch Employees Web Site

Please Print

Name

Title & Court

Address

City, State, & Zip

E-mail Address

Telephone

Web site password

- *Your password should be something you can remember but not something that someone else can guess*
- *Your password must have between 6 and 16 characters*
- *At least two characters must be alphabetical, and at least one character must be numeric or a special character, such as an asterisk or ampersand. Example: water7, *solar.*
- *Password alphabetic characters are lower case.*

You will receive a confirmation letter or email noting your assigned logon ID and password.